



**REDWOOD CITY  
SAN MATEO COUNTY  
Chamber of Commerce**

September 18, 2007

Mr. Kenneth Kirkey, Planning Director  
ABAG  
101 Eight Street  
Oakland, Ca. 94607

**Re: Joint Policy Committee Agenda Item FOCUS: Priority Conservation Area (PCA)  
Nominations Listing #94 Redwood City Bayfront Tidal Plain Area on 9/21/07**

Our Chamber has reviewed the agenda packet for your Joint Policy Committee meeting for next Friday and the item of interest to us is #94 Redwood City Bayfront Tidal Plain Area. Both Site #1 (Area H) and Site #5 Redwood City Industrial Saltworks are items that we want to provide comments for your consideration. We understand that your Agency is in receipt of a nomination request to designate these areas as FOCUS: Priority Conservation Areas (PCA) as submitted by local environmental interests. We oppose any designation of PCA for these two sites. The application criteria requires local consensus. There has been no consensus among Redwood City residents and business owners to support these areas exclusively for conservation at this time.

Site #1 (Area H) has been the subject of several community workshops involving Redwood Shores area in Redwood City and the residents have expressed support for more housing, a new school and neighborhood park. Last year a New Shores School Advisory Committee was formed and reviewed possible sites and unanimously recommended this site for the location of a new school. As part of this proposed development 80% of the site would be restored to tidal marsh at no cost to the taxpayers. Our Chamber supports the need to improve our local educational system to prepare our future workforce in our County.

Site #5 is another area where extensive outreach to the residents and business community of Redwood City has been underway now that Cargill Salt has notified our community that it will be terminating its salt production facilities in Redwood City. The Redwood City Industrial Saltworks has been conducting a series of community outreach meetings for over a year asking for community input as to how the site should be used in the future to address community priorities. A summary meeting of the input received indicated that the majority of the residents were supportive of more housing, mixed use, parks, transportation improvements, improved transit, green building principles combined with open space reserved for new habitat creation.

The Redwood City Industrial Saltworks is now moving ahead with a local community-based planning process involving residents and other stakeholders to help determine the

future uses of this site. Our Chamber has participated in this process from the beginning and we have seen good participation from our local community. In our opinion now is not an appropriate time for you on the Regional Level to move forward to designate Site #1 or Site #5 as PCA's. We request that you let these local planning actions continue as they will help address local and regional priorities particularly needed housing for our workforce which will help air quality and provide congestion relief.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Buckmaster', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Larry Buckmaster, President and CEO

cc: Redwood City Council

Richard Napier, San Mateo County City/County Association of Governments